

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6991

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 9075

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, AU

SUBJ: ASSASSINATION OF TURKISH AMBASSADOR, VIENNA -- REPORT 3

REF: VIENNA 8982

1. AUSTRIAN POLICE AUTHORITIES ANNOUNCED THE EVENING OF OCTOBER 24 THE NAMES OF THREE GREEK CITIZENS WHO, THEY BELIEVED, MIGHT BE INVOLVED IN THE MURDER OF THE TURKISH AMBASSADOR. THE MEN'S NAMES WERE LENIS TSACOSAS, THEODORO LOUKIDIS AND PANAYOTE GEORMAS. THEY HAD SPENT THE NIGHT OF OCTOBER 19-21 IN A VIENNA HOTEL AND HAD BEEN RECOGNIZED BY THE HOTEL PERSONNEL FROM ARTISTS' IMPRESSION PICTURES SHOWN ON AUSTRIAN TV.

2. ACCORDING TO MINISTRY OF INTERIOR SOURCES THIS MORNING (OCTOBER 25), THE POLICE ARE CONTINUING TO PURSUE A WIDE VARIETY OF LEADS AND BELIVED THAT THE THREE GREEKS WHO, WE UNDERSTAND, WERE DETAINED AND SUBSEQUENTLY RELEASED IN ATHENS, REPRESENT THE MOST PROMISING APPROACH. THE AUSTRIANS ARE STILL
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AWAITING RECEIPT OF PHOTOGRAPHS AND OTHER IDENTIFYING

INFORMATION ON THE THREE GREEKS WHO, HOWEVER, ALLEGEDLY HAVE A SOLID ALIBI FROM THEIR PRESENCE AT A SOCCER GAME IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA AT THE TIME OF THE MURDER. THE AUSTRIANS TELL US THE CZECH AUTHORITIES HAVE CONFIRMED PASSAGE OF A GOLD COLORED MERCEDES INTO CZECHOSLOVAKIA (PARA 2, REFTTEL), BUT HAVE THUS FAR NOT GIVEN THE NUMBER OF OCCUPANTS OF THE VEHICLE OR THEIR IDENTITY.

3. THE AUSTRIANS ARE ALSO FOLLOWING UP ANOTHER LEAD FROM THE WESTERN PROVINCE OF VPRARLBERG, WHERE TWO MEMBERS OF AN EXTREMIST TURKISH RELIGIOUS SECT HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED AS MAKING THREATS AGAINST OFFICIAL TURKISH INSTALLATIONS IN AUSTRIA.

4. THE AUSTRIANS TELL US THEY HAVE SO FAR BEEN UNABLE TO OBTAIN MEANINGFUL INFORMATION FROM THE FRENCH AUTHORITIES ON THE MURDER OF THE TURKISH AMBASSADOR IN PARIS, ESPECIALLY ANYTHING BY WAY OF DESCRIPTION OF THE ASSAILANTS. THE AUSTRIANS HOPE THAT INFORMATION FROM THE FRENCH MIGHT ENABLE THEM TO DETERMINE WHETHER THERE IS A POSSIBLE CONNECTION BETWEEN THE TWO MURDERS.

5. A FURTHER LEAD BEING PURSUED BY THE AUSTRIANS INVOLVES A REPORT FROM WITHIN THE TURKISH GUEST-WORKER COMMUNITY IN VIENNA ACCORDING TO WHICH SOME TURKISH WORKERS ACCUSED OF LEFTIST SYMPATHIES WERE ARRESTED AT THE TURKISH BORDER ON THEIR RETURN HOME TO VISIT THEIR FAMILIES, AS A RESULT OF REPORTING BY THE TURKISH AMBASSADOR IN VIENNA. ACCORDING TO THE REPORT, SOME OF THE LOCAL TURKISH COMMUNITY SWORE THAT THEY WOULD GET EVEN WITH THE TURKISH EMBASSY.

6. COMMENT. THE AUSTRIANS ARE APPARENTLY WORKING ON OTHER LEADS, BUT THOSE GIVEN ABOVE SEEM TO THEM THE MOST PROMISING. THEY FEEL THEY COULD USE MORE INFORMATION ON AN URGENT BASIS FROM THE GREEK AND FRENCH AUTHORITIES TO ASSIST THEM IN THEIR OWN
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INVESTIGATION.BUCHANAN

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